What is claimed is:

1   1. A playback terminal for playing back a medium on which

2   is recoded encrypted content and a medium key that is unique

3   to the medium, comprising:

4   a license obtaining unit operable to obtain a license

5   that includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted

6   content;

7   a content key obtaining unit operable to obtain a

8   content key from the license;

9   a key selection unit operable to judge which of the

10 medium key and the content key is to be used in decryption

11 of the encrypted content; and

12   a decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted

13 content using the key selected by the key selection unit.

1   2. A playback terminal for playing back a medium on which

2   is recoded encrypted content, a medium key that is unique

3   to the medium, and key selection information, comprising:

4   a license obtaining unit operable to obtain a license

5   that includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted

6   content;

7   a content key obtaining unit operable to obtain a

8   content key from the license;

41

9   a key selection unit operable to judge, based on the

10   key selection information, which of the medium key and the

11   content key is to be used in decryption of the encrypted

12   content; and

13   a decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted

14   content using the key selected by the key selection unit.

1   3. A playback terminal for playing back a medium on which

2   is recoded encrypted content, a medium key that is unique

3   to the medium, and key selection information, comprising:

4   a license obtaining unit operable to obtain a license

5   that includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted

6   content and a usage condition;

7   a content key obtaining unit operable to obtain a

8   content key from the license;

9   a key selection unit operable to judge, based on the

10   key selection information, which of the medium key and the

11   content key is to be used in decryption of the encrypted

12   content;

13   a usability judgment unit operable to judge, based

14   on the usage condition, whether content corresponding to

15   the license is usable; and

16   a decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted

17   content using the key selected by the key selection unit,

18   when either (i) the key selection unit judges that the medium

19   key is to be used, or (ii) when the key selection unit judges

20   that the license key is to be used and the usability judgment

21   unit judges that the content is usable.

1   4. The playback apparatus of any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein

2   the key selection information has stored therein a

3   content identifier, and key type information that indicates

4   which of the medium key and the content key is to be used.

1   5. The playback apparatus of any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein

2   the key selection information is multiplexed with the

3   encrypted content.

1   6. The playback apparatus of any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein

2   the key selection information has listed therein an

3   identifier of a license corresponding to the content, and

4   the content key obtaining unit obtains the content

5   key from the license specified by the license identifier.

1   7. A playback method for playing back a medium on which

2   is recoded encrypted content and a medium key that is unique

3   to the medium, comprising:

4   a license obtaining step of obtaining a license that

43

5   includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted content;

6   a content key obtaining step of obtaining a content

7   key from the license;

8   a key selection step of judging which of the medium

9   key and the content key is to be used in decryption of the

10   encrypted content; and

11   a decryption step of decrypting the encrypted content

12   using the key selected in the key selection step.

1 8. A playback method for playing back a medium on which

2 is recoded encrypted content, a medium key that is unique

3 to the medium, and key selection information, comprising:

4   a license obtaining step of obtaining a license that

5 includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted content;

6   a content key obtaining step of obtaining a content

7 key from the license;

8   a key selection step of judging, based on the key

9 selection information, which of the medium key and the

10 content key is to be used in decryption of the encrypted

11 content; and

12   a decryption step of decrypting the encrypted content

13 using the key selected in the key selection step.

1 9. A playback method for playing back a medium on which

44

2   is recoded encrypted content, a medium key that is unique

3   to the medium, and key selection information, comprising:

4   a license obtaining step of obtaining a license that

5   includes at least a decryption key for the encrypted content

6   and a usage condition;

7   a content key obtaining step of obtaining a content

8   key from the license;

9   a key selection step of judging, based on the key

10 selection information, which of the medium key and the

11 content key is to be used in decryption of the encrypted

12 content;

13   a usability judgment step of judging, based on the

14 usage condition, whether content corresponding to the

15 license is usable; and

16   a decryption step of decrypting the encrypted content

17 using the key selected in the key selection step, when either

18 (i) in the key selection step, it is judged that the medium

19 key is to be used, or (ii) when in the key selection step

20 it is judged that the license key is to be used and in the

21 usability judgment step it is judged that the content is

22 usable.

1   10. A medium that stores encrypted content, the medium having

2   recorded thereon:

3   a medium key that is unique to the medium; and

4   key selection information indicating whether or not

5 the encrypted content is encrypted with the medium key.

1 11. The medium of Claim 10, wherein

2   a content identifier is recorded in the key selection

3 information.

1 12. The medium of Claim 10, wherein

2   a license identifier is recorded in the key selection

3 information.